FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 FEBRUARY 1985

PLO-Jordanian Agreement

The Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* published the "text" of the Jordanian-PLO agreement in which the two sides called for "Palestinian land in exchange for peace" and expressed support for an international conference attended by a "joint Arab delegation comprising independent regional delegations including an independent Palestinian delegation," QNA reported. The agreement reaffirms that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people who have the right to self-determination and to establish a confederation with Jordan after the establishment of a Palestinian state. It also insists on the implementation of UN resolutions on Palestinian refugees and that both sides declare that they accept "all" UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict "including Resolutions 242 and 338."

The Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* provided a differing account of the agreement, saying it calls for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to take part in any peace negotiations and includes "Palestinian acceptance of the proposal made by King Husayn to amend Resolution 242 so as to include the PLO." However, in remarks broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stressed that the PLO must have an independent delegation in peace talks, asserting that it will not share representation or "give any mandate." He also reaffirmed that Resolution 242 "does not constitute a good basis for any political settlement," adding that any agreement which conflicts with these principles cannot be approved by the PLO. While a Palestinian official cited by KUNA confirmed that the agreement accepts "all" UN resolutions on the Middle East conflict, he pointed out that Resolution 242 "becomes obsolete if other international decisions are implemented." Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said that full details of the agreement have not yet been disclosed because of the need to secure Arab and international backing for the joint move, which must be protected from all those who are "seeking to foil it." The agreement is flexible but "does not include anything that infringes upon Arab consensus," the PLO radio added.

Reporting on the background to the agreement, Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* revealed that Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz was instrumental in removing "obstacles" between Jordan and the PLO, while Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* stated that Saudi King Fahd helped in solving problems that had obstructed it, according to KUNA.

In further Israeli comment, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem television that the agreement represents "a step forward from the Arab point of view" but it is still "insufficient to open peace negotiations." While reaffirming Israel's invitation to King Husayn to hold direct talks in which "we will discuss all his suggestions," Peres emphasized that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is an "obstacle" to peace who "cannot make decisions."

Meanwhile, 'Arafat chaired a PLO Supreme Military Council meeting in Tunis and dispatched a reply to a message from the Soviet leadership, according to SPA.

King Fahd's U.S. Visit

Although Riyadh radio spoke of "optimism" about the outcome of the talks between King Fahd and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Jerusalem radio contended that Fahd has failed to convince U.S. leaders to accept the stand of the moderate Arab countries on the issue of settling the Arab-Israeli dispute. It has emerged that Fahd was "surprised" at Reagan's insistence on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, the radio maintained, and Israeli sources view the king's visit as "pitiful."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Two Iraqi aircraft attacked Iran's incomplete nuclear power station at Bushehr on the night of 12 February but caused no damage to the plant, IRNA announced. "Intense" antiaircraft fire confronted the Iraqi planes, which fired a single rocket that killed one person and wounded several others, the agency added. Meanwhile, an Iranian military communique cited by Tehran radio acknowledged that Iraq launched a "limited offensive" on Iranian positions between the Maymak heights and the Talkh Ab River early on 12 February, but it added that this "desperate attempt" was unsuccessful and the Iraqis were forced to withdraw. In Iraq, President Saddam Husayn authorized the release of Iranian POW's captured by the Iraqi II Army Corps in its attack that day, Baghdad radio noted.

Iraq

A spokesman in Tehran for the Iraqi opposition Al-Da'wah Party rejected President Saddam Husayn's amnesty offer, describing it as a "propaganda maneuver," IRNA reported.

Iranian Economy

In line with Ayatollah Ruholiah Khomeyni's recent directives, the government has decided to sell a number of state-owned factories, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi announced in a statement reported by Tehran radio. On the other hand, the authorities closed down 150 shops in Tehran which were selling "hackneyed phenomena of Western culture" like tapes, videocassettes, fashion clothes and "offensive accessories," according to the radio.

Lebanon

If the Syrians enter the areas evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon the IDF would be prepared to "tackle" the situation just as it is prepared to deal with a similar situation on the Golan

Heights, the Israeli chief of staff declared in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Nevertheless, the commander of the IDF's Northern Command acknowledged that the IDF may suffer a temporary decline in its deterrent power vis-a-vis the Syrians as a result of its withdrawal from the eastern sector, which will take between 10 and 12 weeks, according to the radio. As for the army of southern Lebanon, he revealed that around one-third of its soldiers have now deserted.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese army unit withdrew from the 'Alman Bridge over the Al-Awwali River following an encounter with an IDF patrol, Jerusalem radio reported. Although the Israeli unit took aim at the Lebanese, IDF sources denied that it "chased" them away.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan denied Afghan accusations that Pakistani Armed Forces fired across the border into Konar and Paktia Provinces between 5 and 8 February, according to Karachi radio. In its protest over these alleged incidents, reported by Kabul radio, the DRA maintained that a helicopter was hit by the crossborder fire, which has "intensified" recently.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 031 *14 February 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Pakistani Armed Incursions 'Strongly Condemned' ..... C 1
PDPA Official on Karmal's Health, Other Issues *[Paris]* ..... C 1
Government Adopts Measures To Control Prices ..... C 2
Rebel Group Surrenders to Security Forces ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Ershad on National Election, Economic Reforms ..... D 1
On Pakistan, Other Topics *[Karachi]* ..... D 1
Date Set for Filing Election Nomination Papers ..... D 1
Adviser Discusses Disputes With Pakistan, India ..... D 1
13-14 Feb Border Talks With India Postponed ..... D 1

INDIA

Gandhi on Election Mandate, Education, Tamils *[INDIA TODAY 15 Feb]* ..... E 1
Poland's Jaruzelski Arrives in Madras 13 Feb ..... E 4
Polish Cooperation in Various Sectors Discussed ..... E 4
PTI Says Sri Lankan Navy Kills 2 Fishermen ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Afghan Allegation of Attacks Termed 'Baseless' ..... F 1
Soviet-Karmal Troops Massing in Panjsher Valley ..... F 1
'Terrorists' Arrested, Arms Seized in Parachinar *[JANG 2 Feb]* ..... F 1

IRAN

Musavi Addresses Cabinet Session 13 Feb ..... I 1
Khamene'i on Interference in Culture Ministry ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Revolution's Gains ..... I 1
Air Force Commander Interviewed on Air Strength ..... I 2
Iraqi Attack on Nuclear Power Plant Reported ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 2,003 ..... I 2
Official Reacts to UN Request To Halt Attacks ..... I 2
Pakistan's Ziaul Haq Visits on Anniversary ..... I 3
Palestinian Official Denied Entry Visa ..... I 3
Guardian Council Approves Agreement With PRC ..... I 3
Oil Prices Cut To Safeguard Integrity of OPEC ..... I 3
150 Shops Spreading Western Culture Closed ..... I 3
Afghan Mujahidin Battle Operations Reported ..... I 4
Clashes in Nangarhar, Qandahar ..... I 4
Panjsher Fighting Continues ..... I 4
Rebels Control Herat Province ..... I 4
Villagers Massacred in Retribution ..... I 4
Soviet Aggressors Under Pressure ..... I 5
Clandestine Views Revolution's 6th Anniversary *[National Voice of Iran]* ..... I 5

Pakistani Armed Incursions 'Strongly Condemned'

LD131648 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today at 1130 and the following points were made to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department:

According to reports from relevant DRA authorities, armed and irresponsible aggression by the Pakistani forces is continuing against the residential areas of Barikowt, Konar Province, Bangasht area and Chamkani District, and Paktia Province, near DRA territory. As a result of these attacks and aggressions, using reactive rockets, artillery, mortars, and heavy machine guns, a large number of the inhabitants of these areas, including women and children, have been martyred and substantial material damage has been caused.

The attacks have been specially intensified during the last month. On 18 Dalw [6 February] an Afghan helicopter which was supplying foodstuff to the inhabitants of Barikowt was hit by bullets; also 200 reactive bullets were fired on 17, 19, and 20 Dalw [5, 7, and 8 February] into the residential areas of Bangasht. According to undeniable evidence, Pakistani militia were directly involved and were cooperating in recent attacks on the garrisons of Chamkani and Bangasht.

The relevant DRA authorities strongly condemn the repeated attacks by the military forces of Pakistan, the ever increasing arming of bandits who are sent into DRA territory for terror and destruction and the direct cooperation of Pakistani militia with these murdering, plundering bands, and strongly protest to the Pakistani government as a result.

He was also reminded that the Pakistani authorities should end these aggressions and armed intervention which endanger peace and security in the borders as soon as possible, otherwise the grave and heavy responsibility stemming from them will rest with the military authorities of Pakistan.

PDPA Official on Karmal's Health, Other Issues

LD131542 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpts] [Unidentified presenter] Sixty Soviet soldiers were reported killed last month during an ambush laid by members of the resistance not far from Qandahar in Afghanistan. Another piece of information that remains unconfirmed is that Mr Babrak Karmal, leader of Afghanistan, is reported to be ill. This is not the first time this has been said, but his illness is reported to be sufficiently serious for Mr Karmal to have to give up his position, and there is already talk of General Nazar Muhammad, the current defense minister, as his replacement. Our guest is Mr Asad Keshtmand who came to Paris to attend the Communist Party congress. Mr Keshtmand, you are in a way, let us say, the spokesman of the Kabul government?

[Keshtmand] Of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] rather. [not further identified]

[Presenter] Let us take things in order: For example, these rumors of Mr Karmal's illness? Can you perhaps tell me whether they are true?

[Keshtmand] I left Kabul about 10 days ago and Comrade Karmal was very, very well.

[Presenter] So it is false?

[Keshtmand] I left Kabul 10 days ago. [brief indistinct exchange]

[Presenter] But I mean the rumor does not date from last week.

[Keshtmand] As far as the second part of your question is concerned, there is no question of replacing Comrade Karmal. Comrade Karmal is a longstanding fighter, a very well-known political personality in our country, the founder of our party, someone who is very well loved and known in our country. So, there is no question of that.

[Presenter] But surely there is nothing dishonorable, blackening, or injurious in considering that a head of state is perhaps ill. In a country like Afghanistan if Mr Babrak Karmal is unwell, it can clearly, effectively, pose political problems; that is simply the question which arises.

[Keshtmand] I think it is rather the lack of information about Afghanistan that slightly bothers the Western mass media.

[Presenter] That is indeed true. If we had more information on Afghanistan, we could speak more normally.

[Keshtmand] What I meant was that since they have no other information, they create it. I think it is a simple invention about the health of Comrade Karmal.

[Presenter] Well, we shall go on to the military operations. It is the same thing, the uncertainty: Reports are always unconfirmed, but in the end isn't there still fighting?

[Keshtmand] You see, there is a war in our country; what we call the undeclared war. There is blatant intervention from the Americans, the Pakistanis, the Egyptians, the Saudis, and certain Western countries. We have never denied there is a war in our country. There is damage, there are deaths, there are difficulties, but all are due to a certain open intervention from foreign countries operating from Pakistan.

[Presenter] Ulysse Gosset...

[Gosset, Paris Domestic reporter] Mr Keshtmand, I would like to know who controls Afghanistan today. Is it the Soviets or the Afghans, because the Soviets are present in force — they number more than 100,000 men, there is even talk now of 150,000 to 200,000 men — what power do you Afghans have today in Afghanistan?

[Keshtmand] We have complete power to control our country. Allow me, Mr Gosset to say: If the existence of foreign military forces in a country means that country is occupied, well, you know very well but I shall remind you that there are I think more

than 250,000 American servicemen in Federal Germany...(?elsewhere) in Europe too...

[Gosset interrupting] Yes, but there are no American advisers at the offices of the West German ministries whereas in Kabul there are Soviet advisers at each ministry.

[Keshtmand] No, I think that your information comes from a source that is not very accurate or reliable. Advisers are not at all the offices.

[Gosset] So you feel yourselves to be free in your decisions?

[Keshtmand] But of course. Your question surprises me a little, Mr Gosset. I am surprised by the manner of your approach to the problem.

[Presenter] But we are taking advantage of the fact that you are here. It is very rare to have a representative of the Afghan Government in Paris speaking in French, able to give us his point of view. Hence, we are taking advantage of your presence to ask you questions that we are asking ourselves and that we cannot answer since we cannot go and see what is happening on the spot.

[Keshtmand] Why not? There are journalists who have come.

[Presenter] How many of them have there been?

[Keshtmand] There were 90 Western journalists last year, in 1984, in Afghanistan. There were also several Americans.

[Presenter] Can they go anywhere?

[Keshtmand] But of course.

[Presenter] Mr Keshtmand, a last question. Do you think the Soviet Army will remain in Afghanistan indefinitely?

[Keshtmand] No, there has never been any question of that. The reason the Soviet troops are in Afghanistan was to help us to repulse a foreign aggression that was being prepared from Pakistan. Our country was on the verge of disintegration. The only condition on which the Soviets have remained in Afghanistan is the existence of such an intervention, such an aggression.

From the moment our neighbors — and this forms part of our proposals advanced 3 years ago moreover — assured and guaranteed us that this aggression would stop and not be repeated. [sentence as heard] We have said in our proposals that even the departure of the Soviet troops would be discussed with the Soviet comrades; moreover, that is the position of the Soviet comrades.

[Presenter] Might it not last a century, Mr Keshtmand?

[Keshtmand] No, everything depends on the (?help for) the foreign aggression. You must put the question back to the Americans, Pakistanis, Chinese, Egyptians, Saudis, and others.

[Presenter] Mr Keshtmand, a last question: Why does Mr Babrak Karmal not propose to meet the Pakistani head of state, for example, and say to him: Let us try and reach agreement so that you will no longer attack my country or infiltrate members of the resistance into Afghanistan?

[Keshtmand] That is what we have done, sir. As I told you, on 14 May ,1980.

[Presenter] Isn't this 1985?

[Keshtmand] Listen, on 24 August 1981 we had concrete proposals for negotiations; we have always thought that a negotiated solution is the shortest path; moreover, we have repeated this several times. We have asked the Pakistanis to sit at a negotiating table with us; but, they do not accept for the good reason that it is the Americans who decide and who have no interest in the situation improving in the region.

Government Adopts Measures To Control Prices

LD140958 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, February, BAKHTAR — Stabilization of prices and supply of essential materials throughout the country forms one of the main goals of the (?party) and the government of the DRA. The measures adopted by the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, have led to a relative stabilization of prices.

In spite of the [word indistinct] organization of counterrevolution, destructions of economic enterprises and imposition of economic blockade against Afghanistan by imperialist countries headed by the U.S. imperialism, the revolutionary Government of the DRA spares no effort in the way of stabilizing prices, delivering needed materials and removing the (?undesirable) effects of the transfer [of the] economic crisis of capitalist countries to Afghanistan. Right now, the government has set up 140, cooperative stores for buying essential commodities [words indistinct] than in the bazaar. The government is (?seeking) to strengthen state-run whole sale trade network. Another effective way in the field is the constant [word indistinct] prices in the bazaar in addition to price control [word indistinct] of municipalities the government has also engaged [words indistinct] the stabilization of [word indistinct].

Rebel Group Surrenders to Security Forces

LD140010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] An eight-man group, led by Sofi La'l Muhammad who had fallen prey to the evil propaganda of the rebels — these deceived enemies of the people's tranquillity and prosperity — and who established links for a while with the murderer band of Gulbuddin in the environs of Qarah Bagh District [Kabul Province], recently surrendered themselves and their weapons to the security forces. They did this after learning of the truth of the April Revolution, and thus availed themselves of the Revolutionary Council Presidium's Amnesty Decree. The group gave an assurance to defend the gains of the glorious April Revolution and its new development stage vis-a-vis the homeland, people, and revolution, and to take part in crushing rebel murderers.

Ershad on National Election, Economic Reforms

BK140428 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said he and his government will remain fully neutral in the national elections scheduled for 6 April. Addressing a huge public meeting at Parbatipur today, he reiterated that the election will be held as announced and it will be absolutely free, fair, and impartial.

The president said the verdict of the people expressed through the ballots will be honored and power will be transferred to those who will receive the people's mandate. He called upon the political parties to take part in the forthcoming elections to pave the way for peaceful transition to democracy.

He referred to the epoch-making changes and reforms brought about by his government in all spheres of national life, including administration, economy, industrial policy, land system, judiciary, and drug policy. The president said the 18-point program given by him envisaged revolutionary changes to bring about faster economic development.

On Pakistan, Other Topics

BK131210 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The president of Bangladesh, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said that his country attaches great importance to strengthening its relations with Pakistan. In an interview granted to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Dhaka, he said that the cooperation between the two countries in differnt fields has grown and the relations between them have been strengthened under various agreements. These include agreements pertaining to visa, joint economic commission, cultural cooperation and trade, and air services and shipping.

He made it clear that the trade between the two countries has been steadily increasing and a joint committee pertaining to trade regularly reviews progress in this field. Cooperation in the field of education has also been growing and many high-level visits have taken place.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said that Bangladesh desires good and peaceful relations with its neighboring countries, including Pakistan, and wants to maintain extremely close relations with the Islamic world. Referring to the Islamic Conference Organization, he said Bangladesh is trying to play its fullest role in this organization and cited its meaningful role in the Islamic peace committee as an example of this. Besides these, Bangladesh has recently fulfilled the responsibility of hosting meetings of Islamic foreign ministers and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Bangladesh president said that South Asian regional cooperation is very beneficial. He lauded the role being played by India and Pakistan in this regard.

Referring to the situation in his country, General Ershad expressed the hope that the program of conducting elections on the 6th [of April] will be implemented. He said that he had to make more concessions to meet all the demands of the opposition parties in order to conduct the elections in an impartial manner and now there is no justification for the opposition parties to boycott the elections.

Date Set for Filing Election Nomination Papers

BK141128 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Election Commission has announced the date for filing nomination papers for the coming parliamentary election. Nomination papers will have to be submitted to the returning officers on 24 February. Nomination papers may be submitted on the specified day between 1000 and 1700. The returning officers will accept the nomination papers in their respective offices.

Adviser Discusses Disputes With Pakistan, India

BK131135 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Affairs adviser Humayun Rashid Chowdhury reiterated Bangladesh's pledge to work for world peace and prosperity. Addressing lawyers in Habiganj, he said that the country is making untiring efforts to attain these objectives. He called upon Pakistan to repatriate stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh without any further delay. He said that he raised this issue of repatriation of Pakistani nationals at the Sanaa IOC conference in December last.

Referring to the unsettled bilateral issues with India, the foreign affairs adviser said that efforts are being made to settle them peacefully through negotiations. The adviser later visited the Habiganj Press Club and public library.

13-14 Feb Border Talks With India Postponed

BK131113 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The 2-day border talks, which were to be held today at Barampur, between the deputy commissioner of Kushtia and the district magistrate of Murshidabad have been postponed at India's request. The district magistrate of Murshidabad in a cable has requested for the postponement because of by-elections in India. The new date for the talks will be fixed later.

Gandhi on Election Mandate, Education, Tamils

BK131635 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Feb 85 pp 8, 9, 10

["Excerpts" of interview granted by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to *INDIA TODAY* editor Aroon Purie and senior editor T.N. Ninan in New Delhi — date not given]

[Text] Q. You have interpreted the massive mandate that you have got as a mandate for change. Do you find it ironical that a ruling party has been returned with a massive mandate for change? Why wasn't a lot of what you are doing now not done before?

A. The mandate is not just for change. I think it's both a continuity of certain ideals, certain ideologies, of certain policies, but a change in implementation. We have been making changes continuously. You cannot expect everything to be perfect the minute it is made. Things change, they are dynamic as you progress, the requirements change, demands change. So you change with that.

Q. Recently there has been a tremendous flurry of activity with change in personnel, restructuring of departments, new policies. This in a sense is the easy bit, now you have to get down to specifics. What is the next phase?

A. You'll see.

Q. You have laid a lot of emphasis on accountability of government servants. One of the key things necessary for accountability is that you should be able to sack people. Would you be able to do that?

A. No, I do not think we want to sack government servants. I don't think it is going to be necessary to sack them.

Q. Then what is the option?

A. There are infinite methods of punishment not as severe as sacking, but if you introduce sacking I think you will leave it wide open to abuse by somebody who would want to abuse it.

Q. When you talk about streamlining do you envisage the fact that you may be cutting off certain roles that the Government is playing, like it shouldn't be in certain activities?

A. I agree it shouldn't be in certain areas.

Q. Then what areas do you have in mind?

A. I cannot tell you all that, but yes, we will have to make some hard decisions. We have been taking the soft line for a little too long, not so much the Centre as the states have been taking the soft line. This includes our states also. I am not differentiating between the Opposition and the Congress. We have been subsidising too many things.

Q. When you talk of soft options, there is the recent case of casual workers in the Eastern Railway, first being dismissed and then being reinstated. Isn't that taking the soft line?

A. The decision was taken when the ministers were changing over. So it was a political decision to sack them and it was wrong. They should have consulted the minister in charge. As soon as the minister took over they consulted the minister in charge. As soon as the minister took over they consulted him.

Q. So the people were actually needed?

A. So he says. Yes. They were ticket collectors and their induction has increased the revenue of the railways.

Q. Did you have to intervene in this case?

A. No. The complaint came to me. I said don't come to me, go to the railway minister.

Q. Do you see the need for such ticket collectors in all the railways in all the states?

A. I am not the railway minister. You'll have to ask Mr Bansi Lal.

Q. Do you intend to change the labour laws in order to promote the efficiency which you are so keen about?

A. Hard decisions will have to be taken everywhere in every section and I can tell you that if today we do not take hard decisions then it is going to be a long time before anybody is going to get the change.

Q. What kind of hard decisions are you talking about?

A. Difficult to specify. I'll get into trouble if you print them.

Q. You speak of decentralising decision-making in the government departments, but the Prime Minister's Secretariat continues to play a pivotal role in the decision process. Do you see it becoming less so when you decentralise?

A. The secretariat will play a pivotal role in decision-making above a certain level, where basic policies are involved, but below that we will have to leave the implementation to whoever is in charge. We just follow up the implementation, which does not mean that we go to see whether people are sitting in their offices at 9 o'clock.

Q. But the general feeling is that the Prime Minister's Secretariat plays a far bigger role than that.

A. I don't think so. They have come to me with certain things and I have thrown it back to them, the various ministries.

Q. You want them to make their own decisions?

A. Yes. It is their problem.

Q. What do you mean by certain level?

A. Well, policy decisions. Money decisions will of course have to be done sitting together, certain decisions are made at the Cabinet Committee of Political Affairs level and some which have to go to a full Cabinet.

Q. What time frame do you have for working out a solution for Punjab?

A. It is very difficult to put a time frame on Punjab. Let us understand where we are. We have the Akalis as one group, we have the Government as another group. We have a large amount of Sikhs, and Hindus and Muslims and Christians and other religions in Punjab who are neither Akali nor Congress and when the Akalis say that this is a Sikh problem, we must understand that they are talking about a group within Punjab which is not representative of Punjab. The Akalis are not even representative of the Sikhs. They represent some Sikhs in Punjab. So when we look at this problem it has to be much wider than that. What we need is that some Sikhs either from the Akali Dal or from outside or from any group must come up and positively speak up against the extremists and terrorists. We are going to sort this problem anyway, but this would help a lot.

Q. Can you solve the problem without the Akalis?

A. Depends on the Sikhs.

Q. Do you see any change in the Akali attitude since you last spoke to them?

A. Well, I have not spoken to them. I do not know about the senior leaders, but the next level of leadership which is speaking up now has certain parts which are positive, but one or two people are still tied up in knots.

Q. Besides the political demands, there still seems to be a certain sense of insecurity amongst the Sikhs.

A. We have done a lot. The major insecurity was in Delhi after the beginning of November. Most of the people who left have started coming back. People from Alwar have started coming back, some people from Punjab have started coming back. We have taken steps for their protection and rehabilitation in Delhi.

Q. What about the judicial inquiry?

A. We don't think it will help at the moment. It would raise issues which are really dead.

Q. How do you react to Bhajan Lal's proposal to merge Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh?

A. It is a huge question and I do not think we have discussed it enough to just react to it. No, I don't object to it. It is something we could look into provided it does satisfy the people in Punjab. They are part of the solution, we cannot push something like this on them.

Q. Do you see the state going to elections in March?

A. I think it would be difficult. We have not got a critical report from Punjab. Well, the army is back in the barracks and there is not much more army in Punjab now than there normally is, being a border state and front area.

Q. Do you think the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is successionist?

A. In some parts, yes.

Q. But hasn't it been watered down in 1978?

A. They have not clarified what they have watered down and we have suggested that they take it to the Sarkaria Commission within the terms of reference of the commission, and let Justice Sarkaria look at it, but the Akalis are not keen on doing it for some reason. They want the Government to take it, they don't want to take it, and we don't want to be party to take such a resolution as the Anandpur Sahib to the Sarkaria Commission. Let them take it and let it be evaluated on its merits.

Q. What about elections in Assam?

A. Assam elections are different to Punjab, because in Punjab it is a law and order problem and in Assam it is enumeration. It is not that we cannot hold elections in Assam tomorrow, but we do not have the electoral rolls. As soon as this is done, we could have elections.

Q. What are the prospects of settling the other outstanding issues in Assam?

A. I think the boys are in a much better mood for settlement. Some people that I have met and some feedback that we have got about their own meetings is that they also feel we understand their problems and that we are trying to do whatever can be done, and they understand our constraints.

Q. Why do you think the Congress fared so badly in Andhra Pradesh in the recent general elections?

A. Maybe the Government being toppled, yes, and other such things. The main thing is that we were not in touch with the people, and also bad organisation.

Q. Do you think regionalism weakens national unity? Or is it something which has to be accommodated?

A. It depends on the regionalism. In Tamil Nadu, for example, we have regional parties, but they have always been pro-India. Let us say they have not tried to pull apart. What is more dangerous about regional parties is that they do not really have a national perspective, they see things in a very short-term perspective, which really brings you back to soft options — subsidise this, subsidise that, because it gives them popularity. But somebody has to pay for it. It's not free. Something that is being subsidised in Andhra, subsidised in Bengal, is being paid for.

Q. Do you think NTR [N.T. Rama Rao] is anti-Indian?

A. No. I don't think that NTR is anti-Indian.

Q. If you were in the state of the Opposition, what would you do?

A. I think I would have a good think about what I've done and why I have been cut to shreds by the people.

Q. But does the lack of an opposition worry you?

A. No. Not at all, because I know I won't lose my head.

Q. Now regarding the economy you have spoken extensively about streamlining the public sector, but the growth of the public sector has been mainly due to the taking over of sick units. Will you stop this?

A. I think we really have to have a hard look at the policy. We might change it. We have to also be tougher on the managements that make these units go sick.

Q. How do you mean tougher?

A. We'll find a way. Everybody says that what I have suggested is much too tough. That is the problem.

Q. Do you think the taxes in this country are too high?

A. Although the taxes look high, if you start taking all the deductions then they can actually come down to very low taxes.

Q. Are you saying that by getting rid of some of the deductions and concessions, you can then reduce taxes?

A. We would like to clean it up. Don't have too many boxes, make the whole thing simpler so that people can do it themselves, instead of having to get chartered accountants. I don't think we can make it as simple as I've earned so much, the deductions are so much, and here is my cheque. But we should move in that direction.

Q. Taxes like gift tax and estate duties yield little revenue but create opportunities for corruption. Have you thought of abolishing them?

A. They need to be rationalised.

Q. You keep talking about taking India into the 21st century. What do you mean? What century do you think we are in now, economically?

A. It is a mixed picture. It is our way of thinking which we have to change. We are still very backward in that way. We are really pushing everything on a day-to-day basis. We are short of something we need, another 5 per cent, but we never think of what we need in 10 years or 15 years from now, not only in quantity, but also in quality. And unless we start switching over now we will not be able to make it in the next 15 years. For example, roads. Are we going to keep making these little potholed roads? Okay, we cannot afford to make motorways, but if we have to have these potholed roads, 15 years from now we will be in a total mess. I said roads because they are something we keep bumping on. Maybe we should cut back and have fewer roads but better roads where they are needed.

Q. Basically you are talking about a change in approach.

A. There should be a change in approach in education. Not just churning out what I feel are literate but uneducated people.

Q. What do you hope to achieve by delinking degrees and jobs?

A. Delinking degrees is only reducing a demand for the B.A. degree, because the Government says you should have a degree.

Q. But then with lower qualification requirements, you would probably have more people applying for the same job.

A. Yes, but you need to weed them out from there. You can have a proper test, which can be fairly independent, objective and fast and you need not have numerous B.A.'s who are jobless.

Q. But if you don't have enough jobs anyway, then what do you do?

A. That is where the education system comes in because you have to reorient it so that the jobs are different. We cannot in today's world possibly employ the number of people who we have unemployed, in industries.

They have to come into information handling, they have to come into services, so the education must be such that there is a demand for that. There should be a shift in approach.

Q. All the Government's plans for development can be negated if family planning is not given proper attention. Does your government plan to be more aggressive about this than in the past? Do you still consider it a sensitive issue?

A. Yes, it is very sensitive, but we must make headway on it. We are not going to be hesitant about it, if we did, it is going to sink us. But yes, voluntarily, absolutely. Have more incentives than disincentives. It really comes back to education. It is the educated families who are having less children.

Q. You have said that if Pakistan made the atomic bomb, it will change things completely. How will it change things?

A. It will be a point of no return on the subcontinent if someone has nuclear weapons. We will have to review our policy to see how we are going to counter that imbalances.

Q. What are you going to do about the Tamil militants from Sri Lanka who are in Tamil Nadu?

A. We do not have any hard information on this. They've presented me some pamphlets and leaflets that the Tamils — the refugees — are printing. There is nothing we can do about that. Anybody is allowed to print whatever. We've checked it out, yes, people are printing them but there is no training to my knowledge. What we want in Sri Lanka is a settlement which will enable the refugees to go back.

We cannot have 40,000 people here, maybe there are even more now. We cannot have people who have relatives closely related in Sri Lanka. What is going on there is really terrible. We feel that no military or enforced settlement would be conducive to the refugees going back so they must come to some sort of political settlement. We must create an atmosphere where these poor chaps can go back.

Q. But it seems more and more difficult — this political settlement. What is your attitude towards a new state?

A. I don't think we have come to that point yet. But it needs statesmanship and I hope that the people of Sri Lanka will rise to it.

Q. You started out into politics very hesitantly, but now that you are at the pinnacle, what are your personal goals?

A. I didn't have any personal goals when I came, but after being in politics, after seeing people, their difficulties, their wants, I think our goal has to be to eliminate poverty from India. I don't say that in five years we can do it, but in 10 to 15 years, we can make a major dent in things.

Q. Before you came into politics, you had a quiet life, in that you did not make any public statements about any public policies. There is an element of surprise about the range of initiatives you have taken. Were you thinking about all these matters earlier?

A. Yes, one thought of them, but I never thought that I should do this and why haven't you been doing it, but yes, it has always been at the back of my mind.

Q. Are you pleased that you are in a position to do something about it?

A. Yes. I am pleased that I am in a position to do something about it, and with support, I think we will be able to do something about it, but what is scary is the expectations people have.

Poland's Jaruzelski Arrives in Madras 13 Feb

BK131158 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Polish prime minister, General Jaruzelski, arrived in Madras today on a 2-day visit. He was received at the airport by the Tamil Nadu governor, Mr Khurana; the speaker of the state assembly, Mr K. Rajaram; the chairman of the legislative council, Mr M.P. Sivagnanam; and others. General Jaruzelski is visiting Mahabalipuram this evening. Tomorrow he will visit the integral coach factory near Madras before leaving for Bombay.

Polish Cooperation in Various Sectors Discussed

BK131646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] India and Poland today identified a number of specific areas of collaboration in the coal, steel, and mining sectors. At a meeting in New Delhi between the minister of steel, mines, and coal, Mr Vasant Sathe, and the visiting Polish deputy prime minister, Mr Janusz Obodowski, the two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in ongoing projects in India. The Indian side sought Polish help in the development of a 3,000 million rupee project of coalmining at Madhuban-(Thularitand) in Bihar. The Polish deputy prime minister said a comprehensive offer will be made to India within 3 or 4 months on the project which envisages annual production of 3 million tonnes of coking coal.

The two sides agreed to explore the possibilities of mutual collaboration in the modernization of Khetri copper complex. The Polish deputy prime minister offered to import about 100,000 tons of alumina from India. For examining the possibilities of collaboration in steel sector, the visiting dignitary suggested a visit of Indian experts to Poland.

A 3-member Polish delegation led by the minister of metallurgy and mechanical industry, Mr Janusz Maciejewicz, today called on Shipping and Transport Minister Mr Z.R. Ansari. The two sides held detailed discussions on shipping services, as well as the shipbuilding industry. Poland is a major supplier of ship engines to India.

PTI Says Sri Lankan Navy Kills 2 Fishermen

BK141249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] According to PTI two Indian fishermen were killed when a Sri Lankan naval patrol opened fire at them last night at (Tundikaran) near Rameswaram. This is the third report this week of the Sri Lankans opening fire on Indian fishermen. Reports say the two bodies have been brought to Rameswaram.

Afghan Allegation of Attacks Termed 'Baseless'

BK140630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Pakistan has rejected as totally baseless the allegation leveled by the Kabul authorities that the Pakistani Armed Forces fired across the border toward the Barikowt area in Konar Province on 6 February and toward the Chamkani and Bangasht areas in Paktia Province on 5, 7, and 8 February.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was informed in Islamabad this morning that Pakistan had rejected the allegation and was told to convey to the Kabul authorities that they should desist from leveling such fabricated allegations, since the Pakistani Armed Forces have been strictly instructed not to commit any violations anywhere along the Pakistani border [as heard].

Soviet-Karmal Troops Massing in Panjsher Valley

BK131534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] According to a report, the number of Soviet-Karmal troops near the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul in Afghanistan is increasing and these troops are attacking mujahidin strongholds in the adjoining Somali Valley.

According to a news agency report, at least 60 Soviet-Karmal troops' bodies were airlifted out of Qandahar after a mujahidin attack on a Soviet convoy last month.

'Terrorists' Arrested, Arms Seized in Parachinar

GF140844 Lahore JANG in Urdu 2 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Peshawar — According to reports from Parachinar, local political authorities have seized a quantity of arms and ammunition from two arms smugglers who are also reputed to be terrorists.

The two arms smugglers, Mahbub Khan and Sher Khan, were arrested after several police raids in the locality. The arms seized consist of 2 bombs, 1 rocket launcher, 1 Kalashnikov rifle, 1 303-bore Enfield rifle, and 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Sher Khan, who is an Afghan national, is said to be a member of a gang engaged in smuggling arms into Pakistan through the border town of Parachinar.

Political authorities in Parachinar have arrested 50 terrorists in their region during the past 2 months. They also have intercepted a quantity of arms being smuggled into Pakistan.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet Session 13 Feb

LD131255 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a session this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Musavi. The message of the imam of the ummah on the occasion of the start of the 7th year of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the large-scale and glorious march by the people in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the revolution all over the country were discussed in the session.

Then, Prime Minister Musavi said: While, at the time of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, world arrogance analyzed and interpreted that the people were dissatsified, and the puppet news agencies utilized all their facilities to that end, once again, with their glorious participation, the people slapped world arrogance and its lackeys in the face.

He added: The people's presence once again exposed the news agencies affiliated with world arrogance. Considering the true nature of these news agencies, it is no wonder that they kept quiet and did not reflect news of the people's all-around participation. Even German news agencies, alongside other Zionist news agencies, tried to show the opposite.

He also recited parts of the imam's message. Pointing out the grave responsibility of the ministers to serve the deprived and self-sacrificing people of our country, he said: The government has acted strongly and responsibly in line with the imam's orders. Considering the imam's recent directives, a report on the activities of the various sections of the government toward the people's participation in the affairs will be brought to the attention of the public.

He said: Fortunately, the government has taken important steps in this respect, namely, the decision to sell the various factories owned by the government through the Bureau of Note 82 [Daftar-e Tabsare-he Hashtad-o-do] and some of the factories that have been requisitioned, through the Organization of Nationalized Industries.

Khamene'i on Interference in Culture Ministry

LD132207 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i stressed in a speech Tuesday [12 February] that the Culture and Higher Education Ministry must be strengthened and that others should not interfere in its affairs.

Speaking at a session of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, the president said the Islamic Republic will seek the service of professors who want to help their country but on the other hand will not tolerate those who tried to make their academic position a base to undermine the state.

He said now that the universities had opened, there must be a central administration to make decisions and manage them. For this purpose the Culture and Higher Education Ministry should be strengthened with the harmony and cooperation of the committed religious forces in the universities, he added.

"The activities related to the Culture and Higher Education Ministry should be completely uninterrupted, but of course the policies will be laid down and supervised by us" at the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

He said the Council is not only responsible for universities and in the long-term should also consider "at least" the operations of the Ministries of Education and Islamic Guidance, as well as reflecting the culture of the Islamic Revolution abroad.

The universities, the president said, are the second most important issue after the Iraqi war.

"The war is a temporary issue, during a specific period, and will end some day, but the second issue, which is the universities, carries the same objective as this war, that is to protect this revolution and Islam in the long run."

The president, who also heads the council, said the council had come to a decision to consider the ethical qualifications of applying students as well as their scientific knowledge.

Combatants in the war fronts and certain members of revolutionary institutions would have certain priorities in entering the universities but in a way that should not lower the scientific standard of the universities, he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Revolution's Gains

LD131955 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today that the massive nationwide participation of the revolutionary Muslim nation in 22 Bahman [11 February] celebrations were reminiscent of the glorious days of the victorious '79 Islamic Revolution.

Speaking in the open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) here Rafsanjani further said that such enthusiasm reflects the Iranian nation's unflagging support for the Islamic Revolution and Republic. He said the zeal of the people has not diminished and that they remain forever ready to sacrifice their lives to materialize the divine objectives of the revolution. This he said is interpreted as none other than an unequivocal mandate to the imam and country officials to further consolidate the revolution's gains.

In pre-agenda speeches the Majlis deputy from Khorramabad Mohammad Reza Abbasifar described the massive country-wide celebrations commemorating the 6th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution as a reaffirmation of the nation's collective vote for the divine state, that is the Islamic Republic.

Mr. Abbasifar also spoke on the necessity of confronting superpowers conspiracies, and warned regional reactionary leaders that their nations were willing to give their lives to make Islam sovereign. He said that because of the strategic grouping of Muslim states in the Islamic world, then once their spiritual and material resources were properly exploited they would hence become formidable foes in combatting the world arrogants.

Speaking also in this session was minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Nili-Ahmadabadi who detailed the ministry's activities.

He said currently 930 mines are active, and that they were mainly centralized around Tehran and other major cities. He said, too, there were similarly productive mines in the deprived regions of the country.

Mr. Ahmadabadi said that Iran has estimated iron reserves of about 1 billion tons and coal about 300 million tons.

Air Force Commander Interviewed on Air Strength

LD131744 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA — The Air Force of the Islamic Republic has not relied on any superpower in the more than four years since the Iraqi aggression and has maintained its strength all along, said Air Force Commander Col. Hushang Sediq.

Interviewed by IRNA about Monday's air show at Tehran's Azadi Square, Col. Sediq said 79 Air Force planes participated, including 25 F-14's, 13 F-4's and 12 F-5's.

"The flight by 79 Air Force planes in Tehran practically proved the weakness of Western intelligence and espionage sources because of their baseless assumptions of Iran's military might."

He added that the air show displayed only a glimpse of Iran's Air Force and many Iranian fighter planes were on duty in the war zones and the Persian Gulf region, as well as in the Capital itself.

"Some four years have passed since the war began and during this time we have not relied on neither of the superpowers of the East and West, rather we have stood against their plots and fought them," the Air Force commander said.

Added he: "We have our hopes on God and we do things according to our faith and belief."

Iraqi Attack on Nuclear Power Plant Reported

LD131649 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Pr., Feb. 13, IRNA — Iraqi aircraft attacked an incomplete nuclear power plant in the southern Iranian port of Bushehr Tuesday night but did not cause any damage to the plant.

In the attack by two Iraqi aircraft, only a single rocket was fired under intense anti-aircraft fire from the Iranian forces, martyring one person and wounding several others.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi condemned the attack in a Cabinet meeting today and called on human rights advocates to make an appropriate response to "this savage act by Saddam's regime."

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 2,003

LD131737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its Communique No 2,003, has stated: in the past 24 hours exchanges of fire continued on the Hai 'Umran and Marivan battlefronts, and the efforts of the enemy to extend and fortify its defense position and create minefields were on the whole foiled by the timely fire of the self-sacrificing heroes of Islam. At 0215 on 12 February an enemy unit carried out a limited offensive on our forces' defensive positions between the Maymak heights and the Talkh Ab River in the Helal region with the intention of occupying one of the heights. This desperate attempt by the enemy was also unsuccessful, and by inflicting effective losses in material and casualties our combatants forced the Iraqi troops to leave the area.

Yesterday, in the Sumar, Mehran and Salehabad regions the intensity of the exchanges of fire was great.

In the southern operational sector yesterday the enemy's patrol activities aimed at infiltrating the positions of the Islamic combatants were discovered in time and were neutralized. In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sector our combatants' units, while defending their positions by firing on enemy concentration points west of the Arvand River, destroyed six enemy trenches, and on the Al-Basra road five enemy heavy vehicles were set on fire which impeded traffic on this road.

Official Reacts to UN Request To Halt Attacks

LD131859 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In connection with the special request by the UN secretary-general addressed to Iran and Iraq with regard to refraining from attacking each other's population centers and referring to the past record of the situation corroborated by special missions dispatched by the UN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared: This request could only apply to the Iraqi regime, and because of the clear-cut text of the said [UN] reports could not apply to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Kazempour Ardebili, international and economic affairs under secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview with IRNA, added: I hope that last night's request by the UN secretary-general will be able to persuade the warmongering Baghdad regime to respect its undertakings of 12 June to the UN secretary-general although indications are that Baghdad is preparing the ground for an attack on population areas and border cities of Iran.

He said: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs so far has officially informed Sr Javier Perez de Cuellar and the UN mission in Tehran of more than 100 instances of violations by Baghdad with regard to the 12 June agreement with the secretary-general, and, in one instance the said mission visited three 100-percent-civilian population centers and officially declared that the areas of Dehlaviyeh, (?Marjiyeh) and (?'Alaveleh) had been attacked with cluster bombs by Iraq. The mission's report on this was delivered

to the secretary-general and the General Assembly, whereas the UN mission in Baghdad, after studying and inspecting two regions that the Iraqi regime claimed had been subjected to an Iranian attack, declared that there was not the least sign of attack on these regions and Iraq's claim revealed the lies told by the Baghdad rulers.

He said: In view of the fact that the aggressive, warmongering Baghdad regime has received political support from certain countries, it has continued its acts of aggression against the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran and has sporadically attacked Abadan, Khorramshahr, and a few other cities and villages in Iran. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the patent inability of international forums to prevent further repeated violations of Baghdad's undertakings, last Friday warned the Baghdad rulers that should they refuse to end their attacks against Iran's populated centers within 48 hours Iran would resort to retaliatory action.

The international and economic affairs under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized: Just as everyone knows — and the situation is totally clear to the representatives of the secretary-general in both Iran and Iraq — Islamic Iran, following its agreement with the secretary-general on 12 June last year, has never attacked Iraq's population centers and so long as the Baghdad regime refrains from attacking our population centers, cities and villages, Iran, too will respects its undertakings to the UN secretary-general, just as it has respected them thus far.

Pakistan's Ziaul Haq Visits on Anniversary

LD131947 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 13, IRNA — Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, led a Foreign Ministry delegation which visited the Islamic Republic Embassy here Tuesday night [12 February] and congratulated Iran on the 6th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution (Feb. 13).

While at the embassy talks were held on expansion of bilateral relations, regional issues and the foreign ministers' meeting of the economic cooperation organisation, with the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, M. Musavi.

Palestinian Official Denied Entry Visa

LD131211 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA — A member of the PLO was refused an entry permit to visit Iran because of the "unprincipled" positions he had taken vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran, an informed source told IRNA Wednesday.

The source added that although Iran welcomed the idea of the participation of a Palestinian delegation in the celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, "but since the delegation was headed by a PLO cadre whose positions vis-a-vis Iran has been unprincipled, the Iranian Embassy in Tunisia had to refuse entry permits."

He added that the Iranian Embassy had been approached before the start of the anniversary celebrations by the Palestinians who requested entry permits for a delegation to visit Iran, but the embassy, taking into consideration the head of the delegation, decided to refuse entry permits "despite our desire to have our Palestinian brothers with us at the anniversary ceremonies."

Guardian Council Approves Agreement With PRC

LD131305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Council of Guardians held a session this morning.

At this meeting, the bill for cultural, scientific, and technological agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, as approved by the Majlis session of 16 Bahman 1363 [5 February] and the previous sessions, was further discussed in the presence of the foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati.

The verdict of the Council of Guardians, concerning the absence of any contradictions of this legislation with the shari'a principles and the Constitution, was conveyed to the Majlis.

Oil Prices Cut To Safeguard Integrity of OPEC

LD131902 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 13, IRNA — The Islamic Republic has cut her light crude oil price from dls. 29.11 to dls. 28.05 per barrel and her heavy crude from about dls. 27.55 to dls. 27.35 in a move for safeguarding the integrity of the organization of oil exporting countries (OPEC).

Analysts maintain that despite initial opposition to a proposal of nine OPEC members earlier this month the Islamic Republic wisely made the decision in the interest of OPEC member states and the organization itself. The global situation in the oil markets is one reason which makes Iran's decision commendable. The decision, however, cannot be interpreted as a set-back for Iran but rather a wise move for maintaining the throughness and the uniformity of the organization in the international scene.

150 Shops Spreading Western Culture Closed

LD132115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Committee issued a statement warning those elements who are intent on spreading corruption and obscenity in society and who, by distributing tapes and videocassettes, promoting fashion clothes and offensive accessories that smack of the decadent Western culture, imagine in vain that they can undermine the lofty divine values. The statement declared: A number of boutiques throughout the city of Tehran have set out to spread these hackneyed phenomena of Western culture and have filled their shop windows with common fashion clothes. They have aroused the anger of the hezbollahi Islamic nation and the esteemed families of the martyrs.

After repeated legal reminders to such individuals regarding this, and because no effective action was taken by these miscreant sellers whose shops were the main centers of these types of goods, 150 shops were closed down by the Islamic Revolution Committee with the help of Tehran's Public Prosecutor's Office for failing to observe Islamic values.

Afghan Mujahidin Battle Operations Reported

Clashes in Nangarhar, Qandahar

LD121759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Three military helicopters of the Soviet occupying forces were destroyed by Afghan revolutionary Muslims. According to an IRNA report, in a tactical move, Muslim revolutionaries attacked the helicopters and set them on fire after they had landed in Zakar-e Sharif region in Qandahar Province. The helicopters landed after bombarding the area, thinking the area had been evacuated. After the military occupants got out of the helicopters, they were attacked and killed.

The Central News Unit reports that Qandahar airport was attacked by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, and a large number of Soviet and Afghan Government forces were killed. One large fuel depot was set on fire and one fighter aircraft and two helicopters were also damaged.

The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries also identified 12 spies of the Afghan regime, who had disguised themselves as Muslim revolutionaries in an attempt to infiltrate their ranks, and subjected them to revolutionary execution.

According to other reports received from Afghanistan, severe clashes are taking place at the moment between the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries and the joint Soviet and Afghan forces in Nangarhar Province. No information is available about the result of these clashes.

Panjsher Fighting Continues

LD091959 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 9, IRNA — Reports reaching here from Afghanistan say Soviet planes this week bombarded residential quarters of Afghan mujahidin members at Darreh-ye Shekari 80 kilometres from Kabul.

Fierce battles now reportedly continue between Muslim mujahidin members and the combined government and Soviet troops in the Panjsher Valley of Parwan Province.

In the wake of encounters between the mujahidin fighters and Soviet troops in Baharak near Panjsher Valley Muslim mujahidin guerrillas seized many weapons of the government troops.

In a related report, 50 civilians were killed in Aliabad north of Afghanistan as Soviet troops bombed the area last week.

Rebels Control Herat Province

LD081735 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Province, Feb. 8, IRNA — Eight tanks were completely destroyed in the Qal'eh Dokhtar and Jamal Ghazi regions when mines implanted by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries exploded while an Afghan Government military column was passing.

The incident reportedly occurred "over the past 10 days."

This column included 500 tanks, personnel carriers and trucks carrying soldiers and was moving to Farah Province. It had the aerial support of 24 MIG's and helicopters, a commander of Afghan mujahidin was quoted as saying.

According to this report, Herat Province is completely under the control of Muslim combatants and only the airport and one garrison are under government control.

Villagers Massacred in Retribution

GF081436 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] The usurping Soviet forces and forces of the Kabul regime continue their crimes against the Muslim Afghan people. They recently carried out a massacre in the village of Dilah in Nangarhar Province, in which 130 women, children, and old people were killed. News agencies have reported that 1,100 Soviet and Afghan regime forces supported by 120 tanks and 30 helicopters stormed Dilah and extirpated it. Reports added that the attacking forces opened fire indiscriminately on the villagers and set fire to a house with three mentally handicapped people inside, leaving them to burn alive.

Meanwhile, a teacher at a Nangarhar secondary school, who has fled from Afghanistan, has said that mass punishments and massacres have become commonplace and are dealt out by the Soviet usurpers to Afghan villagers in the wake of every operation by the Afghan mujahidin that inflicts heavy casualties and losses on the Soviet usurpers.

In retaliation for the killing of one of their members by the mujahidin, the joint forces dropped napalm on the village of Dargalah, killing three children and one woman and forcing the villagers to leave their homes. This Afghan teacher added that Afghan planes continually bomb Afghan refugee caravans. In one such bombing raid in November 1984, 18 Afghan refugees, including women and children, were killed.

Meanwhile, the Afghan mujahidin are continuing their operations against the Marxist Karmal regime. Ten days ago they placed a mine in the path of a military column at a bend near the mountainous [name indistinct] and the entrance to Jamal Ghazi in western Afghanistan, destroying eight tanks.

One of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries said that the aforementioned column comprised 500 tanks, personnel-carriers, and trucks carrying some of the most modern weapons. Air cover for the column was provided by 24 MIG fighters and helicopters.

Soviet Aggressors Under Pressure

LD122254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1605 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, everyone is asking why, 5 years after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, they do not leave that country. Maybe the Soviets are still trying to find the Afghans who allegedly invited them to that country. In any case, if, as the officials in Kabul claim, the Soviets were invited by some members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, these days it seems that the ruling party has not been a very hospitable host for the Soviets and that, contrary to their earlier expectations, they have faced innumerable difficulties in Afghanistan.

Of course, the members of the ruling party in Afghanistan are in no better shape than the Soviets, and they too are bewildered and frightened. In a nutshell, these days both the Soviets and the Kabul regime are equally faced with mounting problems and are immersed in fear and anxiety. The reason is also very clear: In the eyes of the Afghan people neither the hosts nor the uninvited guests enjoy any legitimacy or popularity. This is why both are being entertained with their hot bullets.

Not only have the struggles of the Afghan Muslims completely undermined the preconceived aspirations of the Soviets and their puppet regime in Kabul. At the moment, they have made their plight even worse than it was at the beginning, namely immediately after the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan. The recent heavy defeats of the Soviet-Karmal forces in Panjsher Valley, as well as an increase in the military operations of the Afghan Muslim fighters against the Soviet occupying forces, show that the Soviet war machine has lost its fighting capability in confronting the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries; so much so that an increase in the number of Soviet forces stationed in Afghanistan and even the use of the most advanced and complex weapons have not solved any of the Kremlin's problems or those of its puppet regime in Kabul. The attacks that are carried out on a daily basis by Muslim Afghan Mujahidin on Kabul have made the regime of Babrak Karmal and the Soviets realize that even the capital of Afghanistan, which has been turned into a fortified fortress for the regime, is not a very secure place for them and is very vulnerable.

For instance, in October 1984 the Mujahidin carried out an extensive attack against the center of Kabul, during which at least 20 rockets were fired. One of those rockets hit the prime minister's office, the rest landed near a number of foreign embassies. In the same month, the building housing members of the Soviet spy organization, KGB, was attacked with missiles by Muslim Afghan Mujahidin and sustained some damage. In addition to that, with their repeated attacks against the industrial centers and installations in Kabul, such as power stations, and disrupting the communication roads of the city, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have created many difficulties for the Karmal regime.

According to reports received from Afghanistan, right now the Soviet forces have formed three lines encircling Kabul in order to confront the attacks of Muslim Afghan revolutionaries. The country's puppet regime is trying to further increase the number of soldiers stationed around that city. However, none of these security measures have prevented the attacks and infiltration of Muslim Afghan Mujahidin inside Kabul city. Political observers claim that at the moment thousands of struggling Afghan forces have penetrated the capital. This has caused ever-increasing anxiety for the Kabul regime and the Soviet occupiers. From what can be gathered from various sources and reports, the Soviet officials and the Karmal regime are thinking of changing the capital of Afghanistan from Kabul to Mazar-e Sharif, the center of Balkh Province in the north of that country. According to the reports of various news agencies, the first steps for this change have been taken; and it seems that the Kabul puppet regime is most insistent about carrying out this project.

In any case, if that report proves to be true, it should be said that the repeated and crushing attacks of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have forced the regime of Karmal and the Soviet occupiers to choose Mazar-e Sharif as a secure place for the capital of Afghanistan; because in view of the illegitimate regime of Kabul and Soviet aggressors the position of Mazar-e Sharif, which is situated in the northern plains of Afghanistan, 60 kilometers from the Soviet border, will make it easier to protect than Kabul. It will also make it easier for supply and logistic activities, both from a military and civilian point of view.

Nevertheless, this too is nothing more than a vain hope and a futile dream; because today all the cities in Afghanistan from the south to the north, even near the Soviet borders, are subjected to the attacks of Muslim Afghan revolutionaries. Most certainly, changing the capital of Afghanistan from Kabul to Mazar-e Sharif will not make the Soviet occupiers immune from the attacks of the Muslim fighters.

Clandestine Views Revolution's 6th Anniversary

TA121717 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "A Revolution Rolled in Blood and dust by the Islamic Regime"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Our homeland's struggling people are celebrating the anniversary of their glorious revolution amid conditions of gloom in which the specter of theocratic and fascist dictatorship has engulfed the nation like a nightmare, and has trampled on all the gains of the revolution and betrayed its goals. Our nation's glorious revolution ended the life of one of the world's most despotic, bloody and dictatorial regimes, and brought the glad tidings of freedom and independence for the Iranian people and the region's deprived nations.

This revolution, whose sapling was watered with the blood of the best struggling and selfless children of the deprived masses and of all admirers of Iran's freedom and independence, could have moved forward with the aid and assistance of these very people, and could have achieved the just rights of the deprived of society and of all those who want liberty, freedom of conscience and social justice, had it continued its popular, anti-imperialist, and anti-exploiting course.

However, the Islamic Republic's superstitious rulers and treacherous leaders, who attained power by abusing the peole's religious beliefs, turned the revolution's sword against the people.

They suppressed all democratic freedoms as well as national, progressive parties and organizations loyal to the revolution — particularly the Iranian Tudeh Party, the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization Majority, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, who had a lofty role in the revolution's victory — and also religious individuals who had faith in the revolution. In this way they paved the road for social exploiters and plunderers and their Western masters to consolidate their positions.

All those plundering strata — from major capitalists, middlemen of Western monopolies and hoarders to landlords, freemasons and the agents of America and Britain, who at one time had fled in terror from the Iranian nation's wave of wrath and indignation, or had hid themselves in some corner — have for a long time now raised their heads as a result of treachery by the leaders of the Islamic Republic. With the stabilization of power they are taking revenge on the people — the revolutionary people of our homeland.

In order to confirm this fact, what better proof than this that the regime's authorities themselves — from the Velayat-e Faqih to his followers and disciples — are implicitly acknowledging this reality. Yes, they are admitting that they are in the service of amassers of wealth and plunderers.

Our nation's popular anti-imperialist revolution was based on two main slogans: The overthrow of the despotic regime and the termination of the fatal domination of imperialism, headed by America. Our homeland's revolutionary people rightly perceived the healthy and speedy progress of the future of Iran and Iranians in the termination of the life of the tyrannical regime and the domination of imperialism, led by America. Our homeland's revolutionary people justly recognized that attaining the national and humanitarian goal in our society, namely the establishment of a popular, national, progressive and anti-imperialist government, is not possible except by ending tyranny in any form or garb — be it by the shah or the mullahs — and the domination of imperialism. For this reason the cutting edge of the battle of our homeland's revolutionary strugglers during the revolution was aimed at achieving these very goals.

Indeed, in the first post-revolutionary period some of these demands were implemented. Political imposters and bandits — in the garb of religion and the clergy — in those days depicted themselves as supporters of these popular and revolutionary slogans.

For the masses it was difficult to believe that one day these clergy and pseudoclergy, with those grand titles of ayatollah, faqih, and sources of imitation, would entertain a different plan, and that their aim in becoming harmonious with the people and revolutionary forces was to deal a blow at the suitable opportunity to all revolutionary forces, and to trample on all the gains of the revolution and betray its goals.

It is not surprising that the Islamic Republic's leaders, headed by Mr Khomeyni, with the very ploy and trick of the mullahs and with inspiration from their freemason benefactors, gradually adopted the path of suppressing progressive revolutionary forces and assaulting all progressive parties and organizations, as well as executing, torturing and eliminating their members and leaders.

With medieval brutality and savagery, the theocratic-fascist government is leading Iranian society toward retrogression and medieval backwardness. In the economic field the regime's effort is aimed at reconstructing the very system of exploitation and consolidating the domination of exploiting classes under the pretext of implementing the rule of the Koran and shari'a standards. Under the self-made title of "neither East nor West," this self-centered regime is renewing its dependence on the West. In order to gain the approval of imperialism, and despite verbal demonstrations of squabbling with U.S. imperialism, Mr Khomeyni's Islamic regime has engaged in the most scandalous political deals and collusion. Under cover of Islamic economy, Mr Khomeyni's regime is actually providing new life to the dead corpse of the Cento Pact by reviving the Regional Cooperation for Development Organization.

In order to crush the Kurdish people's national movement, the regime of Velayat-e Faqih has even asked the assistance of Turkey's coupist regime which is dependent on America to the marrow of its bones. On the international scene, the Velayat-e Faqih's Islamic regime in many cases pursues a policy favored by imperialism, headed by America. A living example of this policy can be witnessed in the staunch support by Mr Khomeyni's regime for the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, and in interference in the internal affairs of an independent and neighboring country, that is democratic Afghanistan, as well as in the continuation of war hysteria and the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Iranians at the battlefronts.

The fatal consequences of the treacherous policy of Mr Khomeyni's bloody and superstitious regime have above all afflicted the deprived toiling masses, especially workers and peasants, tradesmen and employees, students and university professors, and scientists and artists.

On the anniversary of the February revolution our homeland's people once more swear that they will continue their destiny-making battle in order to revive the revolution's goals. The people have rightly distinguished that revival of the revolution's goals is conditional on the expulsion of a theocratic-fascist government that relies on torture, the bayonet, hypocrisy and deception, as well as on the most plundering social strata and their Western masters.